**Session 1: Introduction to the Pennsylvania Reading, Writing Speaking and** **Listening Standards.** **Read the following questions, and post your responses to the discussion board.**

* Why is it important to get your students to become familiar with the standards?

*Students are most successful when the goals and objectives are clearly outlined for them. Ensuring that students are familiar with the standards allows them to gain a full understanding of what is expected of them. In addition, developing knowledge of the standards in all areas allows students to see how interconnected the various subjects are as well as how the development of strong reading and writing skills allows for success in all content areas.*

* Why do you feel a review of SAS is imperative and what are the reasons to teach literacy skills across all content areas?

*Literacy skills are the foundation of all learning and key to success in school and in life. Simply addressing literacy skills in language arts is not enough. Students must be exposed to a variety of genre in each of the content areas and they must be taught how to think critically about what they have read and to form well-developed and thoughtful written responses. A review of SAS is imperative as it not only outlines the expectations but it also provides a wealth of resources and materials, which can be very helpful to teachers trying to incorporate literacy instruction into their content area instruction.*

* What do you think is the accountability of the teacher to establish literacy skills across the curriculum?

*I firmly believe it is the duty of each and every teacher to incorporate literacy skills into their classroom. Regardless of the content area or grade level, literacy activities need to be interwoven into daily lesson plans.*

* What is the responsibility of the teacher to teach students to write across all content areas?

*Writing across the content areas is very important. Each teacher needs to take responsibility for incorporating writing into his or her classroom. Even math teachers can and should find creative ways to encourage their students to write about what they are learning.*

* How do you know when you should ask for assistance in teaching literacy skills across the curriculum?

*Any teacher who does not feel comfortable and confident about teaching literacy skills within the context of their subject area needs to ask for assistance. Today’s schools have more help in these areas than ever before. Reading specialists and literacy coaches are available to model lessons and provide peer coaching and planning if necessary.*

* How do you assist a teacher to identify the need for students to comprehend text and provide them with encouragement to motivate them?

*In the age of data-driven instruction, reading/language arts teachers as well as reading specialists and school administrators are well aware of which students are struggling with reading comprehension. This information needs to be shared with the content area teachers. In addition, these teachers should be required to complete some sort of comprehension assessment of their own, simply so they can see the struggles some students face. I truly believe that most content area teachers do not fully grasp the severity of some students’ comprehension deficits and how this makes learning incredibly difficult for them. Hopefully, the results of this assessment will provide motivation for them to start incorporating more literacy activities. However, just identifying the need for comprehension instruction in the content areas is not enough. If we are asking content area teachers to adjust their instruction we need to help them do so. Schools need to provide training and/or coaching so these teachers can learn how to alter their instruction to best meet the needs of their students. Perhaps most important is providing them with materials that they can utilize to help them make the transition. In my personal experience, I have found most content area teachers receptive to this change but very unsure about how to implement it into their day to day instruction.*

* Whose responsibility is it to examine the rights of the student to know what behaviors they need to engage in and how becoming an excellent reader will enable them to succeed in all phases of life?

*It is the responsibility of each and every professional staff member working within a school district to understand the importance of becoming an excellent reader and how this will lead to success in all phases of life.*

* Whose responsibility is it to examine the rights of the student to have a teacher who will take the time to teach them how to become successful in all content areas?

*First, it is the responsibility of central and building administration to build their schools upon the philosophy that we will all do whatever is necessary to ensure the success of our students. Expectations should be made clear and teachers should be given all the tools they need to achieve the goal. In addition, teachers need to look at themselves as a team, working together, to the best of their ability, in order to achieve that underlying philosophy.*